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INFORMATION REPORT
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REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DO NOT CIRCULATE

DATE DISTR. 23 January 1953

SUBJECT Activities at Wismar Shipyard; Use of
Cast Iron for Ships' Screws

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Construction of the first ship at the Wismar yard has progressed so far that the bulkheads have been built in as far as the sternpost and afterpeak. The No. 2 vessel, for which the keel had been laid, has been torn apart again. The material is lying loose about the yard.
 2. Another Soviet ship order has been received. This is for a 700 ton vessel, 70 meters long. It will have three 400 hp engines and will be propelled by three screws. Wismar is to build 70 of these craft. The yard is being enlarged for this purpose. Separate halls have been constructed in order to turn out the order as fast as possible.
 3. The salvage ship at the Wismar yard is also an order from the Soviet Union.
 4. Steam engine governors are being built according to the designs of the Poll firm. This is a Western firm whose designs have been copied here because it was not known how to build them in the DDR.
 5. Trials are being made of the use of cast iron for engine crankshafts, but no reports on them have as yet reached the Shipping Administration. Ship's screws of cast iron are being used instead of cast steel screws in craft of the DDR, because the East Zone cast steel is so poor as not to be serviceable. Out of 10 cast steel screws, only four are found serviceable after being X-rayed, and these have so many small defects that the means available are not sufficient to eliminate these faults. These are facts observed [redacted] at the Rothersee yard. Some of the screws had bulges the size of a doubled fist, which had to be chipped down. These showed still more faults under the X-ray. The yard foreman at Rothersee [redacted] had had to chisel off as much as 60 kg of unrounded parts from a screw for a drifter, which made the screw so expensive that it was unprofitable.
- The town of Wismar is temporarily a closed area. Entry is allowed only with a visiting permit.

Comment: Not further identified.

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